Investment for infrastructure in NLD markets

3218. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Long Distance (NLD) market requires a lot of investments in creating infrastructure;

(b) if so, what are the total investments made by NLD operators in creating infrastructure in the country;

(c) what is the total NLD capacity currently available in India and what are the current utilisation levels;

(d) whether the current infrastructure is sufficient to cater to the projected demand during the next three years; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to create more infrastructures in NLD market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information, the total investment made by National Long Distance (NLD) Operators in creating infrastructure in the country is approximately Rs. 17,657 crores.

(c) The total NLD capacity currently available in India is reported to the order of 6.50 lakhs Route KMs (RKM) with capacity utilisation varying from route to route and ranging from 10% to 50% of the capacity.

(d) and (e) The demand for infrastructure in National Long Distance (NLD) sector is related to various factors including expansion of cellular and basic service, business processing outsource industry, knowledge processing outsource industry and other information technology enabled services. The present available capacity is likely to be utilized during the next three years. The Government has recently liberalized entry and other conditions for new NLD service providers.

Production of handsets of mobile phones

3219. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India depends for the production of handsets of mobile phones on foreign companies;